.T IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for accessing content contained on a storage medium, the content comprising plural frames, the frames organized into plural scenes, the scenes organized into plural programs, the apparatus comprising:

a driver module configured to access the content and having a driver output to produce an information signal representing the accessed content;

a decoder module operatively coupled to the driver module to receive the information signal;

a user input module configured to receive user input; and

a system control module,

wherein the system control module controls the driver and decoder modules to generate program identification information for each of the programs and to produce a first display signal representing the program identification information,

wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a user-specified program selection from the user input module, controls the driver module to access a representative frame for each scene comprising the program corresponding to the user-specified program selection and controls the decoder module to produce a second display signal representing the representative frames.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the content is visual information, audio information, or a combination of both.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the representative frames are comprise first frame of each scene comprising the program corresponding to the user-specified program selection.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a data store coupled to receive location data present in the information signal, the location data indicating the location of one or more of the scenes contained on the storage medium, wherein the driver module accesses a representative frame based on the location data.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a display device coupled to receive the display signals.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a user-specified one of the representative frames, controls the driver module to access one or more frames of the scene associated with the user-specified one of the representative frames and controls the decoder module to produce a third display signal representing the one or more frames.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the one or more frames represented by the third display signal are fullscreen.

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a user command from the user input module, controls the decoder module to change the scaling of the one or more frames represented by the third signal.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the program identification information comprises numerical values, each numerical value associated with one of the programs.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first display signal represents the numerical values as plural ranges of numerical values.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the system control module, in response to receiving information from the user input module identifying a selected one of the ranges of numerical values, controls the decoder module to produce a third display signal representing a frame from a scene in each of the programs associated with the numerical values in the selected one of the ranges.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second display signal includes frame identification information to identify the representative frames.

13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frames are formatted in accordance with an MPEG standard, wherein each of the representative frames is an I-frame.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second display signal further represents on-screen display data comprising a row of tabs, each tab

comprising an id symbol identifying one of the programs, the representative frames being arranged in row and column fashion, the tab that corresponds to the user-selected program being visually distinct from the remaining tabs.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the id symbols are numerical values.

16. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second display signal further represents on-screen display data comprising a row of tabs, each tab comprising an id symbol identifying one of the programs, the representative frames being arranged in overlapping fashion, the tab that corresponds to the user-selected program being visually distinct from the remaining tabs.

17. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a content input component to record audio-visual information, the content input component producing a second information signal representing the audio-visual information, the driver module further configured to receive the second information signal and store the audio-visual information on the storage medium, the audio-visual information comprising video information, audio information, or both.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the audio-visual information is organized into recorded frames, the recorded frames organized into recorded scenes, the recorded scenes organized into recorded programs.

19. Apparatus for recording and accessing content on a storage medium, the content comprising plural frames, the apparatus comprising:

a content input component to produce a first information signal representing frames of audio-visual information to be recorded;

a driver module coupled to the content input component to store the first information signal on the storage medium, the driver module including a portion configured to access the content on the storage medium to produce a second information signal;

a decoder module operatively coupled to the driver module to receive the second information signal;

a user input module configured to receive user input; and

a system control module,

wherein the system control module, in response to receiving user-input from the user input module, controls the driver module to define a stream, the stream comprising a set of frames, whereby the frames are organized as plural streams as defined by a user,

wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a first user-provided command from the user input module, controls the driver and decoder modules to produce a first display signal representing a representative frame from each of the streams,

wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a user-selected one of the representative frames from the user input module, controls the driver module to access the stream associated with the user-selected one of the representative frames and controls the decoder module to produce a second display signal representing one or more of the frames of the stream corresponding to the user-selected one of the representative frames.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a second user-provided command from the user input module, controls the driver module identify a frame as a representative frame.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the representative frame is identified by measuring the time from the beginning of the stream to the time of receiving the second user-provided command.

22. The apparatus of claim 19 further including a data store coupled to receive location data, the location data indicating the location of each stream on the storage medium, wherein the driver module accesses a representative frame based on the location data.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the system control module controls the driver module to store the location data on the storage medium.

24. The apparatus of claim 19 further including a display device coupled to receive the display signals.

25. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first display signal further represents date information.

26. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first display signal further represents user-provided information.

27. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the representative frames includes time-of-day information.

28. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the second display signal further represents on-screen display data comprising the representative frames arranged in row and column fashion.

29. A method of accessing content contained on a storage medium, the content being audio information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the content being organized into plural programs, each program comprising plural scenes, each scene comprising plural frames, the method comprising:

producing a first display signal representing first information comprising a representative frame from a scene from each program; and

receiving a program selection and in response thereto, producing a second display signal representing second information comprising one or more of the scenes associated with the selected program.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of receiving a program selection includes receiving a user-specified one of the representative frames, and the step of producing a second display signal includes accessing one or more frames of the scene associated with the user-specified one of the representative frames.

31. The method of claim 29 wherein the first information further comprises on-screen display data representing a row of tabs, each tab having an id symbol identifying one of the programs, the representative frames being arranged in row and column fashion, the tab that corresponds to the user-selected program being visually distinct from the remaining tabs.

32. A method for recording and accessing content on a storage medium, the content comprising plural frames, the method comprising:

receiving an input signal representing frames of audio-visual information to be recorded;

storing said frames on said storage medium as one or more streams;

producing a first display signal representing first information comprising plural representative frames, each representative frame being a frame from one of the streams;

receiving a user-selected one of the representative frames; and

producing a second display signal representing second information comprising one or more of the frames from the stream associated with the user-selected one of the representative frames.

33. Apparatus for accessing content contained on a storage medium, the storage medium comprising plural frames, the frames organized into plural scenes, the scenes organized into plural programs, the apparatus comprising:

first means for identifying the programs contained on the storage device;

second means, operatively coupled to the first means, for producing a first signal containing information relating to one or more of the programs; and

third means for receiving information relating to a selected program,

the second means operatively coupled to the third means to produce a second signal containing information relating to one or more of the scenes associated with the selected program.

34. Apparatus for accessing content contained on a storage medium, the storage medium comprising plural frames, the frames organized into plural scenes, the scenes organized into plural programs, the apparatus comprising:

a first circuit configured to identify the programs contained on the storage device;

a second circuit, operatively coupled to the first circuit, configured to produce a first signal containing information relating to one or more of the programs; and

a third circuit configured to receive information relating to a selected program,

the second circuit operatively coupled to the third circuit to produce a second signal containing information relating to one or more of the scenes associated with the selected program.